

through an opening behind a mirror in the wall of her room, etc. She loses flesh during her attacks and frequently refuses food. However, she is very quiet, and in one attack, treated at home, she suddenly became well. She explained one morning that during the night she became suddenly better, and that everything which she said had been nonsense. The attacks ending in this manner re-appeared four times in as many years.

These cases showing a combination of persecutory and grandioso delusions in the absence of somatic changes, without epileptic or hysterical antecedents or concomitants, are unknown in mania as in melancholia, and are characteristic of paranoia. That there cannot be relapses of the same condition the author asserts for the same reasons which he adduces in differentiating a relapse in mania from a periodical mania. (*Die Manie*, p. 75.)

THE INCREASE OF PARALYTIC DEMENTIA. By Dr. Otto Snell (Munich). *Allgemeine Zeitschrift f. Psychiatrie*, etc. Vol. xlv., bd. 3 ; heft. 6.

It is very doubtful whether the oft-expressed assertion that this century has been characterized by an increase in mental diseases, and by those conditions to which the names of neurasthenia and nervousness have been applied, is true. The fact that hospitals and asylums show an increased number of patients is no proof, for such was the condition of asylums and the treatment of its inmates that people rightly refrained from sending any of their relatives to such places. With the improvement in the care of the insane, confidence in asylums increased so that finally their advantages were called into requisition, and patients who were formerly kept at home and did not come under the observation of alienists were soon transported to those institutions. Under these conditions a much larger number of the insane came under treatment than formerly, and since statistics of the insane treated outside of asylums give but uncertain results, it becomes very difficult to determine what proportion of this apparently rapid increase in psychical disturbances is to be ascribed to these different conditions.

But of the increase in progressive paresis the author thinks there can be no doubt. This view is taken by Lanier, Hask, Tuke. Reinhard comes to a similar conclusion by comparing the statistics at Hamburg, where, between the years 1871 and 1883, the number of insane in comparison to the number of sane only increased to the smallest extent, the number suffering from paralytic dementia in comparison with all the other insane, was greatly increased, so that in the year 1877, there was one parietic to 7.5 non-parietic, while in 1883 this relation was as 1 to 4.

Opposed to these results are those of Clouston, who denies the increase in Edinburg, and asserts that there was a decrease in paretics from 7.3 per cent, which was the percentage suffering from that malady in 1877, to 4.5 per cent. in 1885. Hurd and Sommer corroborate him.

The author compares the number of admissions of paretics with the number of admissions of all other insane in single years, then averages the total. He gives a table with yearly statistics for the last thirty years, the summary of which is as follows :

Admitted—Men, 2469, of which 383 were paretics; hence 15.5 per cent.

Women, 1894, of which 47 were paretics; hence 2.5 per cent.

Total number, 4363; 430 paralytics, or 9.9 per cent.

From this he concludes that there was almost double as many paretics during the past thirty years than in the preceding thirty.

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— SCALE OR POWDER —

SEE "MERCK'S INDEX," PAGES 106 AND 167